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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SURGEON

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 26

A.P.O 500
14 July 1945

RED CROSS HOSPITAL SERVICE

1. The Red Cross program in army hospitals is designed to help patients attain maximum benefit from hospital care by aiding in the solution of personal and family problems and relieving the tedium of hospital life with medically approved recreation and diversion. The services of the American Red Cross which are available to all patients include:

- a. Distribution of comfort articles to patients who for some reason are without them and temporarily without funds to purchase them at exchanges. Comfort items include stationery, cigarettes, toothpaste, tooth brushes, razors and razor blades, shaving cream, soap, combs and ditty bags. Stationery is made available to all patients while other comfort articles are distributed on the basis of need.
- b. Incidental and personal attention, when the need exists, for such things as handling of postal money orders, sending cables, writing letters for patients unable to write, shopping, etc.
- c. Assistance with personal and family problems through case work and American Red Cross Welfare and Inquiry Service.
- d. Financial assistance in the form of loans or grants in special cases, upon recommendation of a medical officer, and when payment of the patient in accordance with USAFFE Circular No. 32, 4 April 1945, is not practicable. (Services c. and d. are available to duty personnel upon request or referral. Loans or grants to duty personnel must be approved by the detachment commander.)
- e. Obtaining psychiatric or health histories of patients through the American Red Cross Chapter Home Service facilities on the request of a medical officer.
- f. In the case of the seriously ill or deceased, on the request or with the approval of the commanding officer, writing of letters to next of kin to amplify the official information which has been sent them by giving some personal details about the patient's condition or his death would be secured from the medical officer, approved by the commanding officer and submitted to the Commander-in-Chief, AFPAC, (Attention: All such information regarding either patient's condition or his death would be secured from the medical officer, approved by the commanding officer and submitted to the Commander-in-Chief, AFPAC, (Attention:

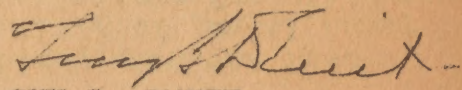
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tion: AG Casualty Section) for transmission.

- g. A medically approved recreation program for patients including ward activities for bed patients, the furnishing, equipping and operation of patients recreation building or day room, reading and writing facilities, hand craft, small games, and ward movies, when equipment and facilities permit.
- h. Rendering all possible assistance to patients, preparatory to discharge from the Army for disability, in preparation of required forms.

2. All activities and opportunities available through Special Services and Information and Education Section will be coordinated with the American Red Cross schedule of recreation and diversion provided for patients. Red Cross cooperation and assistance will be available to Special Services and Information and Education officers in planning and working out activities and entertainment for duty personnel.

3. For further details regarding Red Cross responsibility and relationships in Army hospitals, reference is made to AR 850-75.



GUY B. DENIT

Brigadier General, United States Army
Chief Surgeon

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